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HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

J. Paul Taylor

A MEMORIAL

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSEUMS TO THE STATE'S
CULTURAL LEGACY AND SUPPORTING OUTREACH EFFORTS OF THE MUSEUM
OF NEW MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, 2009 will be the centennial of the museum of New
Mexico and 2012 will be the centennial of New Mexico's
statehood, and these major milestones will provide unique
opportunities to celebrate New Mexico history and cultures; and**

**WHEREAS, museums play an important role in the economic
vitality, quality of life and education of their communities;
and**

**WHEREAS, local and private museums in New Mexico hold a
rich diversity of collections that are part of the state's
artifactual and archival history; and**

WHEREAS, most local or private museums in the state have

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1 small staffs and depend on volunteers to operate, and, despite
2 their best efforts, collections often remain uncatalogued,
3 disorganized and inaccessible to the public; and

4 WHEREAS, the museum of New Mexico secured national funding
5 to initiate a statewide museum outreach project to prepare
6 small, rural museums to become local cultural heritage leaders
7 and to provide assistance to the museums in upgrading
8 facilities, providing better care for collections, improving
9 professional practices and strengthening financial
10 sustainability; and

11 WHEREAS, the museum outreach program provides
12 consultations; professional support and training; high-quality,
13 affordable traveling exhibitions; and the means whereby small,
14 rural museums can conduct research and document collections,
15 expand access to the collections and provide good management of
16 historical collections; and

17 WHEREAS, over the last century, the museum of New Mexico
18 helped establish museums and visitors' centers in Roswell,
19 Carlsbad, Farmington, Lincoln, Mountainair, Las Vegas, Raton,
20 Las Cruces, Silver City, Portales and Clovis; and

21 WHEREAS, its outreach program currently serves museums in
22 ten counties, and over one hundred additional museums have
23 participated in outreach training workshops or received
24 information via the museum's online services; and

25 WHEREAS, outreach to small, rural museums is a labor-

1 intensive and costly endeavor, and creating permanent, positive
2 change will require a long-term commitment by the museum of New
3 Mexico and local museums;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
6 the outreach efforts of the museum of New Mexico and support
7 its work with local and private museums in the state to
8 maintain New Mexico's cultural heritage; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the museum of New Mexico.

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